

The Examiner's Restriction Requirement is traversed because the characterization of Figures 2 and 3 is not correct.

The Examiner asserts that Figure 2 and Figure 3 both show receiver subspecies. However, as can be seen with reference to the specification at page 5, lines 11 through 12, and page 13, lines 15-19, Figure 3 shows the structure of a transmitting section. In addition, as described on, for example, page 12, lines 7-9 of the specification, Figure 3 detects the structure of a transmitting section in addition to the structure of a receiving section. Thus, the Examiners assertions regarding Figure 2 and 3 are traversed. Withdrawal of this present Restriction Requirement is believed to be in order.

With respect to the network species, it is noted that although Figure 12 shows a ring topology, it is possible to construct of network with a substantial bus topology by providing folded ends in the network.

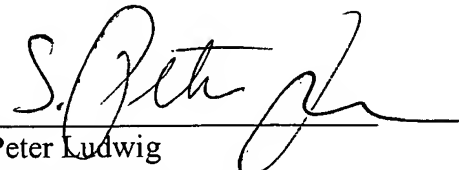
With respect to the transmitter species, the transmitter is configured by a ring laser and an external optical modulator. Figure 1 shows the structure of a ring laser, and Figure 8 shows a subspecies of the ring laser shown in Figure 1. The transmitter shown in Figure 3 divides transmitted signals into two types of signals (i.e., a signal propagated in the ring network in a clockwise direction and a signal propagated in the ring network in a counterclockwise direction, and transmits these signals to the ring network. Therefore, as a result of the election of the ring network shown in Figure 12, the transmitter which directly corresponds thereto is the one shown in Figure 3.

It's also noted that claim 29 relates to a ring network while claim 21 recites a transmitter which bi-directionally inserts signals into the ring network.

Based on the preceding comments reconsideration and withdrawal by the Examiner of the Requirement for Election/Restrictions is respectfully requested. All of the claims and Figures should be examined together in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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